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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/905,580	07/12/2001	Shell Sterling Simpson	10007646-1	4266

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EXAMINER
LESNIEWSKI, VICTOR D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2152	

DATE MAILED: 10/26/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/905,580	SIMPSON ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Victor Lesniewski	2152	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *30 August 2006*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-3,5-7,9-17,19-21,23-30 and 33-38* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-3,5-7,9-17,19-21,23-30 and 33-38* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   The amendment filed 8/2/2006 has been placed of record in the file.

2.   Claims 1, 5, 10, 13-15, 19, 24, 27-29, 33, 34, 37, and 38 have been amended.

3.   The objection to claims 34-36 is withdrawn in view of the amendment.

4.   Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-17, 19-21, 23-30, and 33-38 are now pending.

5.   The applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-17, 19-21, 23-30, and 33-38

have been considered but are moot in view of the following new grounds of rejection.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

6.   A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in

37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is

eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e)

has been timely paid, the finality of the previous office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37

CFR 1.114. The applicant's submission filed on 8/30/2006 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

7.   Claims have been amended to show that the data being accessed at least indirectly

identifies those production options to which the user does not have permission to access.

Although the following grounds of rejection are similar to the previous rejection, new line

citations to the Hart reference have been added which show teaching of the amended limitations.

The applicant's arguments are moot as they do not deal with these specific citations to Hart.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

9.   Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 11, 12, 15-17, 20, 21, 25, and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as

being unpatentable over Wood et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,453,127), hereinafter referred to as

Wood, in view of Hart, Jr. et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,154,843), hereinafter referred to as Hart.

10.   Wood disclosed a method for establishing a user interface to a printer at a remote location

where the user interface is downloaded from a web server to the user to allow the user to control

the printer. In an analogous art, Hart disclosed a secure remote access computing system that

utilizes a custom user interface to allow a user to execute tasks on a secure private network from

an unsecured remote computer.

11.   Concerning claims 1 and 15, Wood did not explicitly state that his system could generate

the user interface so that it provides user accessible controls for only those options for which the

user has permission to access. Although his system generates a user interface for the user, he is

also not explicit about dynamically generating the interface in this way. However, Hart's system

dynamically generates a custom program for the user based on a verification of the user's

security privileges. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of

the applicant's invention to modify the system of Wood by adding the ability to check for user

permissions and generate the interface dynamically as provided by Hart. This would make sense

because it would allow a higher degree of management and security features in Wood's system.

Hart cites the need for more secure remote access of a device which requires only a minimum number of features and sets out to solve the problem with a customized real-time program with which to access the device (see column 2, lines 16-27 and 47-59). This motivation also applies to those dependent claims utilizing the same combination.

12.   Also concerning claims 1 and 15, Wood did not explicitly state accessing data that at least indirectly identifies those production options to which the user does not have permission to access. However, Hart's system provides user authorization techniques that allow a user access only to those options to which he has permission and that restrict the user from those options to which he does not have permission. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the system of Wood by adding the ability to access data that at least indirectly identifies those production options to which the user does not have permission to access as provided by Hart. Again, this would make sense because it would allow a higher degree of management and security features in Wood's system as discussed above.

13.   Some claims will be discussed together. Those claims which are essentially the same except that they set forth the claimed invention as a computer program product are rejected under the same rationale applied to the described claim.

14.   Thereby, the combination of Wood and Hart discloses:

- <Claims 1 and 15>

    A method for mediating access to production options, comprising: acquiring a user's access request for a production device (Wood, column 2, line 65 through column 3, line 8); accessing data that at least indirectly identifies those production options to which the

user does not have permission to access (Wood, column 6, lines 1-8 and Hart, column 5, line 59 through column 6, line 11 and column 11, lines 26-33), each production option corresponding to feature that when implemented affects a manner in which the production device produces a target document (Wood, column 3, lines 54-65); in response to the user's access request, dynamically generating a user interface according to the accessed data so that the user interface provides user accessible controls for only those options for which the user has permission to access (Wood, column 5, lines 3-24 and Hart, column 3, lines 3-12 and column 6, lines 12-34); and presenting the user with the generated user interface so that through the user interface the user can cause the production of the target document by the production device in accordance with a selection of one or more of the user accessible controls provided by the user interface (Wood, column 5, lines 3-24).

- <Claims 2 and 16>

   The method of Claim 1, wherein the act of acquiring comprises intercepting an access request directed to the production device (Wood, column 2, line 65 through column 3, line 8).

- <Claims 3 and 17>

   The method of Claim 1, wherein the act of acquiring comprises redirecting the access request (Wood, column 2, line 65 through column 3, line 8).

- <Claims 6 and 20>

    The method of Claim 1, wherein the act of generating comprises generating the interface

    in the form of a web page and the act of presenting comprises presenting the generated

    web page to a web browser (Wood, column 5, lines 3-24).

- <Claims 7 and 21>

    The method of Claim 1, wherein the act of dynamically generating comprises: retrieving

    an interface for the production device, the interface having user accessible controls for

    selecting production options for the production device (Wood, column 5, lines 3-24 and

    column 3, lines 54-65); and modifying the interface according to the accessed data

    providing user accessible controls for only those options for which the user has

    permission to access (Hart, column 6, lines 12-34).

- <Claims 11 and 25>

    The method of Claim 7, wherein the acts of retrieving and modifying are performed on a

    network device other than the production device (Wood, figure 2, item 30).

- <Claims 12 and 26>

    The method of Claim 7 wherein the act of retrieving comprises retrieving the interface in

    the form of a web page, and the act of presenting comprises presenting the modified web

    page to a web browser (Wood, column 5, lines 3-24).

Since the combination of Wood and Hart discloses all of the above limitations, claims 1-3, 6, 7,

11, 12, 15-17, 20, 21, 25, and 26 are rejected.

15.   Claims 5, 9, 10, 13, 14, 19, 23, 24, 27-30, 33, and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

as being unpatentable over Wood in view of Hart, as applied above, further in view of Zothner

(U.S. Patent Number 6,751,657).

16.   The combination of Wood and Hart disclosed a method for establishing a user interface

to a printer at a remote location where the user interface is dynamically generated for allowing

the user to control the different options of the device for which he has permission. In an

analogous art, Zothner disclosed a business rules manager module that associates business rules

with actions in terms of the role of a user in the system.

17.   Concerning independent claims 13, 14, 27-29, 33, and like dependent claims, the

combination of Wood and Hart did not explicitly state accessing a user record in order to

generate the interface. Although the combination of Wood and Hart does check permissions for

a specific user, it is not specific about using user records. However, Zothner's system describes

a set of user profiles that help define the role of each user and contain security and permission

information for each user. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the

time of the applicant's invention to modify the combination of Wood and Hart by adding the

ability to access a user record as provided by Zothner. This would make sense because it would

allow a higher degree of management and security features in the combination of Wood and

Hart. Zothner cites the need for this expanded capability in management as being important to

the availability and reliability of network systems (see column 4, line 62 through column 5, line

12), two features that are very important to the combination of Wood and Hart for information

access and monitoring. This motivation also applies to those dependent claims utilizing the same

combination.

18.　　Thereby, the combination of Wood, Hart, and Zothner discloses:

- <Claims 5 and 19>

  The method of Claim 1, wherein the act of accessing comprises obtaining credentials for the user and locating a user record using the credentials, the user record containing the data that at least indirectly identifies those production options to which the user does not have permission to access (Zothner, column 9, line 64 through column 10, line 8 and Hart, column 5, line 59 through column 6, line 11 and column 11, lines 26-33).

- <Claims 9 and 23>

  The method of Claim 7, wherein the interface is a web page containing instructions for displaying controls for selecting production options and wherein the instructions are associated with one or more tags each tag identifying a particular production option, wherein the act of altering comprises identifying the tags for production options to which the user does not have access and altering the instructions associated with those tags (Zothner, column 19, line 58 through column 20, line 4).

- <Claims 10 and 24>

  The method of Claim 7, wherein the act of accessing comprises obtaining credentials for the user and locating a record for the user using the credentials, the record containing the data that at least indirectly identifies those production options to which the user does not have permission to access (Zothner, column 9, line 64 through column 10, line 8 and Hart, column 5, line 59 through column 6, line 11 and column 11, lines 26-33).

- <Claims 13 and 27>

  A method for mediating access to production options, comprising: acquiring a user's

  access request for a production device (Wood, column 2, line 65 through column 3, line

  8); accessing a record established for the user, the record containing data that at least

  indirectly identifies those production options to which the user does not have permission

  to access (Wood, column 6, lines 1-8; Zothner, column 9, line 64 through column 10, line

  8; and Hart, column 5, line 59 through column 6, line 11 and column 11, lines 26-33),

  each production option corresponding to feature that when implemented affects a manner

  in which the production device produces a target document (Wood, column 3, lines 54-

  65); generating a web page for the production device according to the user's record so

  that the user interface provides user accessible controls for only those options for which

  the user has permission to access (Wood, column 5, lines 3-24 and Hart, column 3, lines

  3-12 and column 6, lines 12-34); and presenting the user with the generated web page so

  that through the web page the user can cause the production of the target document by the

  production device in accordance with a selection of one or more of the user accessible

  controls provided by the user interface (Wood, column 5, lines 3-24).

- <Claims 14 and 28>

  A method for mediating access to production options, comprising: acquiring a user's

  access request for a production device (Wood, column 2, line 65 through column 3, line

  8); retrieving a web page for the production device, the web page having user accessible

  controls for selecting production options (Wood, column 5, lines 3-24); accessing a

  record established for the user, the record containing data that at least indirectly identifies

those production options to which the user does not have permission to access (Wood,

column 6, lines 1-8; Zothner, column 9, line 64 through column 10, line 8; and Hart,

column 5, line 59 through column 6, line 11 and column 11, lines 26-33), each

production option corresponding to feature that when implemented affects a manner in

which the production device produces a target document (Wood, column 3, lines 54-65);

and altering the web page according to the user's record so that the web page provides

user accessible controls for only those options for which the user has permission to access

(Hart, column 3, lines 3-12 and column 6, lines 12-34); and presenting the user with the

modified web page so that through the web page the user can cause the production of the

target document by the production device in accordance with a selection of one or more

of the user accessible controls provided by the user interface (Wood, column 5, lines 3-24

and column 6, lines 18-34).

- <Claim 29>

In a computer network, a system for managing electronic document production, the

system comprising: a production server operable to dynamically generate an interface

according to a user's record containing data that at least indirectly identifies those

production options to which the user does not have permission to access (Wood, figure 2,

item 30; column 5, lines 3-24; column 6, lines 1-8; Hart, column 5, line 59 through

column 6, line 11; column 11, lines 26-33; and Zothner, column 9, line 64 through

column 10, line 8), each production option corresponding to feature that when

implemented affects a manner in which the production device produces a target document

(Wood, column 3, lines 54-65); a permission service in operable to acquire a client's

access request for the production device (Wood, column 2, line 65 through column 3, line 8) and in response to direct the production server to generate an interface according to the user's record (Zothner, column 9, line 64 through column 10, line 8) so that the user interface provides user accessible controls for only those options for which the user has permission to access (Hart, column 5, line 59 through column 6, line 34), and to direct to the client the generated interface so that through the interface the user can cause the production of the target document by the selected production device in accordance with a selection of one or more of the user accessible controls provided by the modified interface (Wood, column 5, lines 3-24).

- <Claim 30>

The system of Claim 29, wherein the interface is a web page and the client is a web browser (Wood, column 5, lines 3-24).

- <Claim 33>

In a computer network, a system for managing electronic document production, the system comprising: a production server operable to serve to a client an interface having user accessible controls for selecting production options for a target document (Wood, figure 2, item 30 and column 5, lines 3-24), each production option corresponding to feature that when implemented affects a manner in which a selected production device produces a target document (Wood, column 3, lines 54-65); a permission service operable to retrieve the interface from the production server for the selected production device (Wood, column 5, lines 3-24), access a user's record containing data that at least indirectly identifies those production options to which the user does not have permission

to access (Wood, column 6, lines 1-8; Hart, column 5, line 59 through column 6, line 11

and column 11, lines 26-33; and Zothner, column 9, line 64 through column 10, line 8),

modify the interface according to the user's record so that the modified interface has user

accessible controls for only those options for which the user has permission to access

(Hart, column 5, line 59 through column 6, line 34), and direct to the client the modified

interface so that through the interface the user can cause the production of the target

document by the selected production device in accordance with a selection of one or

more of the user accessible controls provided by the modified interface (Wood, column 5,

lines 3-24).

• <Claim 34>

The system of Claim 33, further comprising a permission engine operable to generate an

interface having user accessible controls for managing user records (Zothner, column 9,

line 64 through column 10, line 8).

Since the combination of Wood, Hart, and Zothner discloses all of the above limitations, claims

5, 9, 10, 13, 14, 19, 23, 24, 27-30, 33, and 34 are rejected.

19.   Claims 35-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wood in

view of Hart, further in view of Zothner, as applied above, further in view of Adolfsson (U.S.

Patent Number 6,092,078).

20.   The combination of Wood, Hart, and Zothner disclosed a method for establishing a user

interface to a printer at a remote location where the user interface is dynamically generated for

allowing the user to control the different options of the device for which he has permission. In

an analogous art, Adolfsson also disclosed a method for interfacing network peripheral devices with a web browser where the web browser provides the user with a graphical user interface that allows the user to control different options of the peripherals.

21.   Concerning independent claims 37 and 38, and like dependent claims, the combination of Wood, Hart, and Zothner did not explicitly state using device records for generating the interface or using a device locator for detecting new devices. However, Adolfsson's system is substantially similar to the combination and does explicitly describe the use of device records for peripherals as well as techniques for locating peripherals new to the system. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to modify the combination of Wood, Hart, and Zothner by adding the ability to use device records for generating the interface and use a device locator for detecting new devices as provided by Adolfsson. This would make sense because it would allow a higher degree of management and security features in the combination of Wood, Hart, and Zothner. Zothner cites the need for this expanded capability in management as being important to the availability and reliability of network systems (see column 4, line 62 through column 5, line 12). This motivation also applies to those dependent claims utilizing the same combination.

22.   Thereby, the combination of Wood, Hart, Zothner, and Adolfsson discloses:

- <Claim 35>

    The system of Claim 34, further comprising one or more device records, each device

    record containing data representing the production options offered by the particular

    production device, and wherein the permission engine is operable to parse the device

records to generate the interface for managing the user records (Adolfsson, column 9, line

66 through column 10, line 10 and column 16, lines 44-50).

- <Claim 36>

The system of Claim 35, further comprising: a device locator operable to detect new

production devices; and an update service operable to create a device record for each

newly detected production device (Adolfsson, column 16, line 51 through column 17,

line 5).

- <Claim 37>

In a computer network, a system for managing electronic document production, the

system comprising: a production device (Wood, figure 2, item 15); one or more user

records, each user record containing data that at least indirectly identifies those

production options to which the user does not have permission to access (Wood, column

6, lines 1-8; Hart, column 5, line 59 through column 6, line 11 and column 11, lines 26-

33; and Zothner, column 9, line 64 through column 10, line 8), each production option

corresponding to feature that when implemented affects a manner in which the

production devices produces a target document (Wood, column 3, lines 54-65); a

production server in communication with the production device and operable to generate

an interface for that production device according to a user record so that the generated

interface has user accessible controls for only those options for which the user has

permission to access (Wood, figure 2, item 30 and column 5, lines 3-24 and Hart, column

5, line 59 through column 6, line 34); a permission service operable to access the user's

record, direct the production server to generate an interface for the production device

according to the user's record, and to direct to a client the generated interface so that

through the interface the user can cause the production of the target document by the

selected production device in accordance with a selection of one or more of the user

accessible controls provided by the modified interface (Wood, column 5, lines 3-24 and

Zothner, column 9, line 64 through column 10, line 8 and column 19, lines 15-31); one or

more device records, each device record containing data representing the production

options offered by the production device (Adolfsson, column 9, line 66 through column

10, line 10); a permission engine operable to parse the device records and generate an

web page for managing user records (Adolfsson, column 16, lines 44-50 and column 4,

lines 21-23 and Zothner, column 9, line 64 through column 10, line 8); a device locator

operable to detect new production devices; and an update service operable to create a

device record for each newly detected production device (Adolfsson, column 16, line 51

through column 17, line 5).

- <Claim 38>

In a computer network, a system for managing electronic document production, the

system comprising: a production device (Wood, figure 2, item 15); one or more user

records, each user record containing, for each production device, data that at least

indirectly identifies those production options to which the user does not have permission

to access (Wood, column 6, lines 1-8; Hart, column 5, line 59 through column 6, line 11

and column 11, lines 26-33; and Zothner, column 9, line 64 through column 10, line 8),

each production option corresponding to feature that when implemented affects a manner

in which the production device produces a target document (Wood, column 3, lines 54-

65); a production server in communication with the production device and operable to

serve an interface for that production device, the interface having user accessible controls

for selecting production options for the production device (Wood, figure 2, item 30 and

column 5, lines 3-24); a permission service operable to access the user's record, retrieve

the interface from the production server, modify the interface according to the user's

record so that the modified interface has user accessible controls for only those options

for which the user has permission to access (Wood, column 5, lines 3-24; Zothner,

column 9, line 64 through column 10, line 8; and Hart, column 5, line 59 through column

6, line 34), and to direct to a client the modified interface so that through the modified

interface the user can cause the production of the target document by the selected

production device in accordance with a selection of one or more of the user accessible

controls provided by the modified interface (Wood, column 5, lines 3-24); one or more

device records, each device record containing data representing the production options

offered by the production device (Adolfsson, column 9, line 66 through column 10, line

10); a permission engine operable to parse the device records and generate an web page

for managing user records (Adolfsson, column 16, lines 44-50 and column 4, lines 21-23

and Zothner, column 9, line 64 through column 10, line 8); a device locator operable to

detect new production devices; and an update service operable to create a device record

for each newly detected production device (Adolfsson, column 16, line 51 through

column 17, line 5).

Since the combination of Wood, Hart, Zothner, and Adolfsson discloses all of the above

limitations, claims 35-38 are rejected.

Conclusion

23.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Victor Lesniewski whose telephone number is 571-272-3987. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday.
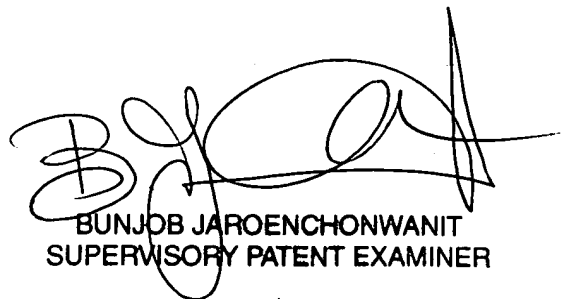
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bunjob Jaroenchonwanit can be reached on 571-272-3913. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Victor Lesniewski
Patent Examiner
Group Art Unit 2152

BUNJOB JAROENCHONWANIT
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER